

**COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM
SUBCOMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY, INFORMATION POLICY,
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS AND THE CENSUS
CONGRESSMAN ADAM PUTNAM, CHAIRMAN**



MEDIA ADVISORY

**For Immediate Release
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**Working to Improve America's "Cyber Security"
*President's Former Special Advisor for Cyber Security, Richard Clarke to Testify***

What: Subcommittee on Technology, Information Policy, Intergovernmental Relations and the Census oversight hearing on "Cyber Security: The Challenges Facing Our Nation In Critical Infrastructure Protection"

When: Tuesday, April 8, 2003, 9:30 a.m.

Where: Room 22247 Rayburn House Office Building

Background:

This hearing will examine the issues of cyber security and critical infrastructure protection both in the government and the private sector.

The nation's health, wealth, and security rely on the production and distribution of certain goods and services—critical infrastructures (e.g. electricity, the power plants that generate it, and the electric grid upon which it is distributed). Computer systems and their technological connectivity are bridging the cyber gaps of everyday productivity together. There has been a growing concern that the reliance on computers and computer networks raises the vulnerability of the nation's critical infrastructures to cyber attack.

Since January 2001, efforts to improve federal information security have accelerated at individual agencies and at the government wide level. For example, implementation of the Government Information Security Reform Act legislation (GISRA) enacted by the Congress in October 2000 was a significant step in improving

federal agencies' information security programs and addressing their serious, pervasive information security weaknesses. Under GISRA, agencies have noted benefits, including increased management attention to and accountability for information security. Although improvements are under way, recent audits of 24 of the largest federal agencies continue to identify significant information security weaknesses that put critical federal operations and assets in each of these agencies at risk.

Panel One Witnesses:

Richard Clarke, Former Special Advisor to the President for Cyberspace Security; and
Michael A. Vatis, Director, Institute for Security Technology Studies at Dartmouth College, Chairman, Institute for Information Infrastructure Protection

Panel Two Witnesses:

Robert F. Dacey, Director, Information Security Issues U.S. General Accounting Office;
Mark A. Forman, Associate Director, Information Technology and Electronic Government, Office of Management and Budget;
Thomas Pyke, Chief Information Officer, Department of Commerce; and
Rhonda MacLean, Senior Vice President and Director of Corporate Information Security for Bank of America, Sector Coordinator for the Financial Services Industry Public/Private Partnership on Critical Infrastructure Protection and Homeland Security

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